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T20 WORLD CUP 2024: THE WHO, WHY AND WHEN OF SUPER 8s

With the group stages coming to an end on Monday, a look at the teams that have progressed, what lies ahead and more...

HOW ARE THE GROUPINGS MADE?

While the top two teams from each group advanced, their seedings in Super 8s will be based on initial grouping. For example, Afghanistan will remain C1 even if they finish below West Indies in Group C as the former will be replacing New Zealand in the original grouping made by the global cricketing body before the tournament | P11

WHO WILL FACE INDIA AND WHEN?

- India, who will be A1, are up against Australia (B2), Afghanistan (C1) and either of Bangladesh/Netherlands (D2). They will begin their Super 8s journey against Afghanistan on Thursday
- The other Super 8s group will feature England, both the tournament hosts — West Indies, United States — and South Africa

THREE

MATCHES WERE ABANDONED DUE TO RAIN DURING GROUP STAGES SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAD • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Shah seeks Kashmir-like zero-terror plan in Jammu

Says Centre committed to rooting out terrorism from the region

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

UNION Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asked security agencies to replicate their success in tackling terrorism in the Kashmir Valley in the Jammu division as well. Noting that the fight against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is in its decisive phase, Shah directed security agencies to implement 'area domination' and 'zero-terror plans' in Jammu like they did in Kashmir.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the prevailing security situation in Jammu & Kashmir in the wake of recent terror attacks, Shah directed the security agencies to work on a mission mode and ensure quick response in a coordinated manner, officials said.

Reiterating the Centre's 'zero-tolerance policy' against terrorism, Shah said the government will root out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir. The government's efforts have yielded great results in Kashmir with significant reduction in terror-related incidents and improvement in the law and order situation, which is "reflected in the record inflow of tourists in the Valley", he added.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt General Upendra Dwivedi, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh, BSF Director General Nitin Agarwal, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain and other top security officials attended the meeting, which was held in the wake of terror attacks in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts. The attacks came within a span of four days last week, killing nine pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving several others injured.

Later on Sunday, Shah chaired another meeting to review the preparations for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, which is scheduled to begin on June 29. During the deliberation, the minister was given a thorough briefing on the measures taken to ensure a safe and peaceful Yatra, officials said.

During his interaction with the law enforcement and security agencies, the Union home minister appreciated them for the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections in the Union territory, which witnessed record voter turnout compared with past elections.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reviewed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and directed the "deployment of the full spectrum" of "counter-terror capabilities" in the region. P8

Home Minister Amit Shah during a high-level meeting to review security situation in Jammu & Kashmir and preparedness for Amarnath Yatra, in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

Why teach riots? NCERT's spin on lesson cuts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMID furore over the omission of references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition in the Class 12 syllabus, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani sought to justify it saying such topics won't benefit students. Such content can create 'violent and depressed citizens', he said in an interview to PTI.

"Should we teach our students in a manner that they become offensive, create hatred in society or become victim of hatred? Is that education's purpose? Should we teach about riots to such young children," he said, adding that hatred and violence should not be the focus of school textbooks.

The comments come at a time when new textbooks have hit the market with several deletions and changes. The revised Class 12 political science textbook does not mention the Babri masjid but refers to it as a "three-domed structure". It has pruned the Ayodhya section from four to two pages and deleted details from the earlier version. It instead focuses on the Supreme Court judgement that paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the disputed structure once stood before it was torn down by Hindu activists in December 1992.

Dinesh Prasad Saklani, director of NCERT | PTI

The changes in textbooks have triggered a controversy with critics accusing NCERT of promoting saffronisation of the school curriculum. Rejecting such notions, Saklani said: "If something has become irrelevant ... it will have to be changed. Why shouldn't it be changed? I don't see any saffronisation here. We teach history so students know about facts, not for making it a battleground."

Claiming that the NCERT's curriculum is based on facts and evidence, Saklani said, "If we are telling about iron pillar in Mehrauli and saying Indians were way ahead of any metallurgical scientist, are we saying wrong?"

Centre has taken note of NEET lapses, guilty to face serious action: Pradhan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

AMID nationwide outrage over the NEET-UG fiasco, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said the Centre has taken note of two incidents of lapses in the test and those found guilty will face serious action. Pradhan also said that the Centre is mulling necessary reforms in the National Testing Agency (NTA), an autonomous agency under the Education Ministry, tasked with conducting the nationwide medical entrance exam.

"Two incidents of lapses pertaining to NEET has come to fore. Initial information was that some students were upset for getting less time in the exam and awarded grace marks. However, the government rejected it and on the recommendations of the Supreme Court, ordered a retest of 1,563 candidates in six centres," he said. He also said some irregularities have come to light at two places. "I assure students and parents that the government has taken serious note of it. All these matters will be taken to their logical conclusion and accountability will be fixed on those found guilty for the lapses," he said. "No matter how

Dharmendra Pradhan

senior official of NTA someone is, if lapses are found they will face strict action," he added.

The Union Minister said the NTA also needs a lot of improvement. "The NTA is an autonomous organisation. However, it needs reforms and the government has taken this into consideration," he said while reassuring the students that the guilty will not be spared and will get the harshest punishment.

Notably, allocation of grace marks and allegations of question-paper leak in the NEET-UG exam has muddied the testing system that selects students for the medical colleges. After the Supreme Court's observation, the NTA has revoked grace marks awarded to the 1,563 students and has announced a retest on June 23.

Pic for Representation

Darshan to be charged for keeping geese at farmhouse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

TROUBLE continues to mount for actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is already under arrest for the murder of 34-year-old S Renukaswamy of Chitradurga. The forest department, investigating the illegal possession of **bar-headed geese** at Darshan's farmhouse on the Mysuru-T Narasipura Road here, will be submitting its chargesheet in two days.

Forest officials had booked a case against the actor, his wife Vijayalakshmi and farmhouse manager Nagaraj, under various Sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, for illegally keeping the migratory birds in a cage at the farmhouse, in Kempaianahundi village, in January 2023.

It all began when Darshan had reportedly stated in an interview that he had bar-headed geese at his farmhouse, and also reportedly showed the birds kept in a cage to the interviewer.

CONTINUED ON: P3

Israel pauses fighting during daytime along key aid route

AGENCIES

AMID warnings about dire shortages of food and other essentials in the Gaza Strip, Israel on Sunday announced it will pause fighting during daytime along a route in the southern part of the Strip to facilitate aid deliveries.

"A local, tactical pause of military activity for humanitarian purposes will take place from 8.00 am (0500 GMT) until 7.00 pm (1600 GMT) every day until further notice along the road that leads from the Kerem Shalom crossing to the Salah al-Din road and then northwards," a statement by the Israeli military said.

Overland access restrictions and the closure of the key Rafah crossing with Egypt since Israeli forces seized it in early May have made it tough to get essential supplies to those in need. The "tactical pause," which applies to about 12 kilometers of road in the Rafah area, falls far short of a complete cease-fire that has been sought by the international community, including Israel's principal ally, the United States, AP News reported.

The United Nations welcomed the Israeli decision. "We hope this leads to further concrete measures by Israel to address longstanding issues preventing a meaningful humanitarian response in Gaza," UN aid agency OCHA's spokesman Jens Laerke said in an email to AFP. P9

Palestinian children collect food aid in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip | AFP

Baby sale racket: Raid on quack's farmhouse reveals buried foetuses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

POLICE officials, in association with health and revenue departments, raided the farmhouse of a quack and carried out a search operation in Basarakod village of Kittur taluk on Sunday. During the operation, officials traced the remains of three foetuses buried on the property.

It may be recalled that the Malmaruti police of Belagavi had arrested five individuals on June 9, including a fake doctor, for attempting to sell a one-month-old infant girl for Rs 1.5 lakh. The accused were identified as Mahadevi alias Priyanka Bahubali Jain from Neginhal village in Bailhongal taluk, Dr Abdul Gafar Husainsab Ladkhan, a fake doctor from Kittur, Chandan Girimallappa Subhedar from Bailhongal taluk, Pavitra Somappa Madiwalar and Praveen Manjunath Madiwalar. Rajkumar Singappa Rathod, coordinator of the District Child Protection Unit at the Government Adoption Centre, filed a case against them.

According to police sources, the one-month-old baby was born after Dr Ladkhan, who was approached by Praveen and Pavitra Madiwalar, helped in the delivery. The couple had initially approached Dr Ladkhan to carry out an abortion. However, Dr Ladkhan facilitated the delivery and kept the baby with him. He allegedly sold the baby for Rs 60,000, and later commission agents attempted to sell her for Rs 1.40 lakh. Acting on this information, police nabbed the accused, who confessed to the crime during interrogation.

Ladkhan had been running a clinic in Kittur town, posing as an MBBS doctor for over 10 years. A couple of days ago, the health department seized his clinic. Ladkhan was arrested for allegedly assisting Mahadevi Jain, a nurse from Neginahal village, sell babies to affluent families after purchasing them from the poor at a low cost. In the wee hours of Sunday, officials from health, revenue and police departments, led by Assistant Commissioner Prabhavati Fakirpur, local tahsildar Ravindra Hadimani, District Health Officer Dr Mahesh Koni and DySP Ravi Naik raided Ladkhan's farmhouse. P5

EXPRESS READ

Will support TDP's LS Speaker bid, says Raut

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said all partners of the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc will try to ensure support for the ruling ally TDP, if it fields a candidate for the Lok Sabha Speaker's election. Raut claimed that if the BJP gets the post, it will break the parties like the TDP and the JDU. P7

Journalist booked for fake news on Rahul

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee on Sunday lodged a police complaint against journalist and YouTuber Ajeet Bharti, accusing him of alleging that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi intended to replace the Ram Mandir with the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. P4

Rahul questions credibility of EVMs

New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said EVMs in India are a "black box" which nobody is allowed to scrutinise, and asserted that concerns are being raised about the country's electoral process. He also tagged a post by Tesla CEO Elon Musk in which he talked about eliminating EVMs. P7

MY SUPERHERO

As the world celebrates Father's Day, a child sleeps in the warm embrace of his father, near Cubbon Park, in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASWINA

'Fuel price hike for devpt, guarantees'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

DEFENDING the Congress-led dispensation's decision to increase the Value-Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel in Karnataka, Minister for Medium and Large Industries MB Patil on Sunday stated that the government needs funds for its development projects, and for the implementation of the five guarantee schemes that the Grand Old Party announced going into the Assembly elections last year.

Addressing the media after chairing a Karnataka Development Programme meeting in Vijayapura on Saturday, Patil, however, mentioned that despite increasing VAT on petrol and diesel in the state, the prices here still remain lower, compared to other states – such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. He added that the Congress government has hiked the prices of petrol and diesel, with an objective of rationalising the prices compared to the other states.

He further claimed that despite the hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, no unnecessary financial burden has been put on the people of Karnataka. Meanwhile, the minister held the Centre responsible for the steep hike in petrol and diesel prices in India. He claimed that an LPG cylinder which cost around Rs 450 during the UPA era, began to cost over Rs 1,000 during the Modi years.

MORE REPORTS: P4

10% RESERVATION?

Gender parity: DGP wants women to gear up and fight fire

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

FOR the first time in 82 years, the traditionally male-dominated Fire & Emergency Services Department has approached the state government to appoint women firefighters. Accordingly, the department has recommended at least 10 per cent reservation for women in the recruitment of firefighters.

Currently, the role of women staffers at the Karnataka State Fire & Emergency Services Department is limited to desk work. The inclusion of female firefighters in the workforce would be a significant move in promoting gender equality within the fire service.

The proposal has been made by the Director General of Police (DGP) of the Fire & Emergency Services, Kamal Pant. "Women have proved themselves in various challenging roles across different sectors, including the Armed Forces and the police department. It's time we recognise their potential in the fire services as well," Pant said.

"We have proposed to the government the need to change the cadre and recruitment rules to facilitate reservation for women. The proposal is being examined and will soon be sent to the government. The selection process for men and women remains the same," the senior IPS officer said, adding, "The department maintains strict recruitment standards. Our primary concern is public safety. All recruits must be regardless of gender and must meet the standards."

Another senior officer from the fire department mentioned that they plan to improve facilities and working conditions to make the environment more conducive for female staff. "We are confident that the state government will approve our proposal and allow women to work as firefighters," the officer said.